Spot verification of utilization of Special Central Assistance

4189. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the deviation in the utilization of funds under SCA to Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have conducted any review to look into the manner of utilization of SCA;

(d) whether Government have deputed any official for on the spot verification of works; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFARIS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) and (b) In the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended March, 1998, it has, *inter-alia*, been brought out that a scrutiny of records in selected districts of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, West Bengal and Daman and Diu revealed that funds aggregating Rs. 85.88 crores, which pertain to Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan were diverted to other schemes/activities. These observations are based on sample check of documents for the period 1992-98 of the Ministry and the implementing departments and agencies of 17 States and one U.T. The matter has been taken up with the State Govts. Concerned.

(c) to (e) Central Government Officers visit the States/UTs for reviewing and ascertaining the progress of implementation of schemes. Meetings/conferences are convened at the Central level with the Minister in-charge of Tribal Welfare of States along with the concerned Secretaries to review the physical and financial progress of schemes/projects. In addition, the following measures are also taken to ensure effective and timely utilization of Central grants under SCA;

(i) Utilization Certificates are insisted upon as a pre-requisite for further release of funds;

(ii) Periodic progress reports regarding the status of implementation of schemes are obtained;

(iii) At the State level, agencies like the Tribes Advisory Council, Project Implementation Committee of ITDPs at Block levels and Panchayat Samities monitor timely spending of funds.